

Report of the AMPAC Board of Directors

Presented by: Stephen A. Imbeau, MD
 Chair, AMPAC

On behalf of the AMPAC Board of Directors, I am pleased to present this report to the House of Delegates regarding our activities this election cycle. As the nation slowly returns to normal, the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to have long-term effects on health care delivery in this country. The hardships faced by the medical community these past eighteen months have only strengthened our commitment to our mission - to provide physicians with opportunities to support candidates for federal office who have demonstrated their support for organized medicine through a willingness to work with physicians to strengthen our ability to care for America's patients. In addition, we continue to help physician advocates grow their abilities through our political education programs, which include intensive training sessions that provide them with all the tools necessary to successfully take the next step and work on campaigns or run for office themselves.

AMPAC Membership Fundraising

AMPAC is celebrating 60 Years of Political Action! In 1961 the members at the AMA realized the need for an advocacy arm to enhance the mission of the AMA and that year AMPAC was created as the first non-union Political Action Committee (PAC) in the country and has been advancing the mission of the AMA ever since.

We have had many achievements over the past sixty years that have had a lasting impact for physicians and medicine. AMPAC was the first professional member association PAC to use Independent Expenditures (IEs), which paved the way for the advocacy profession to significantly impact elections through paid advertising independently of a candidate or party in the political arena. AMPAC's campaign schools, established in 1985 has trained over 1,900 AMA members and spouses to be advocates and candidates and includes three physician graduate members that sit in Congress today. These are just a few of the advances AMPAC has made for the medical community over the last sixty years. We look forward to achieving many more, however the future of AMPAC's success relies on the ability to maximize funding from within our HOD.

Thank you to the House of Delegate members who have already contributed to AMPAC this year and especially those at the Capitol Club level. For those who have not had a chance to do so yet, we encourage you to make an investment today. Each year AMPAC's goal is to have 100% HOD AMPAC participation and so far, this year, we have only 30% HOD AMPAC participation. As a leader, we ask for your support during this special anniversary year, so help increase AMPAC participation in the HOD by visiting AMPAConline.org to contribute. AMPAC is also hosting a virtual booth during this meeting, so visit AMPAC's website for more details and to view the schedule.

Finally, AMPAC is hosting a virtual event with Jonathan Swan, National Political Reporter for *Axios*. The virtual event is an invitation only event for all 2021 Capitol Club members and will take place on Tuesday, June 15 at 12:00 p.m. Central time. This will be an event you will not want to miss, and we hope that many of you will be able to attend. AMPAC's sixtieth anniversary is something everyone can be proud of, so we hope to count on the support of our House of Delegate members to make AMPAC's 60th year the best one yet.

Political Action

AMPAC has begun its normal process of considering contributions to candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate for the 2022 elections. Because it is so early in the cycle, expect a slow pace of contributions limited only to those incumbents who are members of their parties' leadership, on key committees or otherwise in an important position to advance AMA priorities currently moving in Congress. The impact of

Congressional redistricting is another important factor that will drive AMPAC towards a very cautious and deliberative approach to getting involved in races at this early date. Seven states—California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia— will lose a seat. Five states—Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon—are gaining one seat, and Texas will gain two. The highly contentious political process that will unfold in these and other states around the country could dramatically change race dynamics in a number of contests. Incumbents could be drawn together into one district forcing a member vs. member race. In other instances, the makeup of a congressional district may change so much that the incumbent decides to retire or jump to run in a neighboring district instead. In short, the 2022 political landscape remains murky to say the least and AMPAC will act accordingly and not rush to get involved in races that may look very different in a mere matter of months.

Political Education Programs

Over the course of two weekends in January, physicians, medical students, physician spouses and state medical society staff from across the country took part in the 2020 Campaign School held virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. During the program, twenty-four participants were placed into virtual campaign teams and with a hands-on approach our team of political experts walked them through a simulated campaign, teaching each of them everything they need to know to run a successful race as either a candidate or campaign staff. Senator John Barrasso, MD (WY), a former program graduate, was the keynote speaker and AMPAC is happy to report that the virtual program received high marks from participants, many of whom are seriously considering a run for public office this cycle. Dates and format have not been announced for the 2021 Campaign School this fall.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, AMPAC announced that the 2021 Candidate Workshop would also be held virtually this year. Building off the success of the virtual Campaign School, AMPAC staff worked with program trainers to convert the one-and-a-half-day in-person programming into a virtual format. Held over the course of two weekends in May, twenty-six physicians, medical students and state society staff participants learned the skills and strategic approach they will need as a candidate out on campaign trail. During the one-and-a-half-day program, participants learned how and when to make the decision to run, the importance of a disciplined campaign plan and message, the secrets of effective fundraising, the role of spouse and family and much more. Senator Bill Cassidy, MD (LA) and Representative Ami Bera, MD (CA), both former program graduates, provided taped remarks and the keynote session, respectively. AMPAC is proud to report that the virtual program also receives high marks from participants.

AMPAC is also proud to announce that Dr. Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber was selected the winner of the 2021 AMPAC Award for Political Participation. This award recognizes an AMA or AMA Alliance member for their outstanding work through volunteer activities in a political campaign or a significant health care related election issue such as a ballot initiative or referendum. Dr. Rohr-Kirchgraber is from Indiana and was nominated by her peers on IMPAC and ISMA, as having demonstrated standout contributions through her efforts in political campaigns, fundraising, state and federal PAC education, and garnering support for healthcare related issues last election cycle. She spent a significant amount of time and played a vital role in campaign and fundraising for various initiatives that impacted her community. Dr. Rohr-Kirchgraber will be honored at the AMPAC Capitol Club event to be held virtually during the Annual Meeting.

Conclusion

On behalf of the AMPAC Board of Directors, I would like to thank all members of the House of Delegates who support AMPAC and the work we do. Your continued involvement in political and grassroots activities ensures organized medicine a powerful voice in Washington, DC.